

ANS Correspondence

Briggs, Arthur Palmer
[Lynn, MA]

1916

RARE COLLECTION OF BRONZE MEDALS AT THE LIBRARY

Form Complete History of
Sovereigns of France From
540 A. D. to 2d Republic.

75 IN COLLECTION, OWNED
BY CITIZEN OF NEWPORT

Will Remain on View in Refer-
ence Room Until March
18 Only.

A rare collection of bronze medals was placed on exhibition today in cases in the reference rooms of the public library, where it will remain until Saturday, March 18. They are French medals of unusual interest, of workmanship of 1840, and form a complete historical series of the sovereigns of France from 540 A. D. to the second republic.

There are 75 medals in the collection, which is owned by a resident of Newport, R. I., and loaned to the public library through Principal A. P. Briggs of the Shepard school. Each bears the portrait of a king of France, except two heads, which represent the first republic and the second republic, and two which bear the likenesses of Napoleon and his son, the king of the Romans.

The library authorities consider themselves fortunate to have secured the loan of the collection for even so short a time as a week. People who were interested in the recent largely attended exhibit of stamps and coins are expected to be much interested in these medals, which have been much admired by members of the Coin club, to whom the librarian has shown them.

This is said to be the only complete collection of its kind in the country. The medals are all in excellent condition. Each bears on the reverse the date of the sovereign whose portrait is on the face, together with a brief summary of his reign, engraved.

The series ranges from Pharamond, A. D., 420, through Clodion, Childeric, Clovis, etc., through Louis Philippe to the republic set up Feb. 24, 1848. That completed the long list of rulers of France up to the time of the completion of the series of medals.

The collection was delivered at the library yesterday, through the good offices of Mr. Briggs, and was placed on view today. The valuable and complete series makes a very interesting exhibit, and one of the best smaller exhibits it has been the library's good fortune to offer this year.

119 Bellevue Road,
Lynn, Mass. 3-16-16
The American Numismatic Society,
West 156th Street,
New York City.

Dear Sirs:-

The set of historic bronze medals described in the clipping I am inclosing is for sale. The Newport gentleman, who years ago purchased the collection from a financially embarrassed friend whose grandfather had brought them over from France, is now himself in need of the money they represent. He has three choice parcels of real estate and also many many costly imported things in the bric a-brac line, but in ready cash he is somewhat lacking.

Upon becoming the owner, he shipped the set to Tiffany who charged \$40 for clearing them and \$58 for five choice trays and a box in which to place the trays.

Now I am instructed to turn the bronzes into cash, he himself being of too proud spirit to attempt to do so. He expects to lose on the sale, hence in my judgment collectors will be fortunate to win the collection at a sacrifice to the owner.

If you are interested, I shall be pleased to correspond. If conditions do not favor a purchase by your society, I shall be grateful if you can refer me to some individuals, coin clubs, or societies that may have a purchasing interest.

The medals, 2" in diam., in perfect condition, Tiffany mounted, complete without any skips, illustrative of the shoulder garbs of the times, every one with tiny fleur-de-lis in the decoration and each with a brief description in French of the chief events of that particular king's reign, make a wonderful exhibit.

Very truly yours,

Arthur P. Briggs.

March 17th, 1916.

Mr. Arthur P. Briggs,
119 Bellevue Road,
Lynn, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of March 16th has just been received. I would be glad if you would inform me as to the price asked for the collection of medals in question.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

119 Bellevue Road,
Lynn, Mass.
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, at 156th Street
New York City.

Dear Sirs:-

Your letter of inquiry
respecting the value of the medals
about which I wrote lies at hand.

The set cost the Newport party
\$550, which plus the cleaning ^{\$10} and
trays _{\$58} brought the expenditure
up to \$648. My instructions are
to turn them into cash, but to
try to get at least \$400. It seems
to me that \$400 is exceedingly
reasonable for such a rare and
complete collection and in such
perfect condition. I told the libra-
rian here in Lynn that I should

ask \$500 for the set. She expressed herself as feeling that I was making a mistake to let them go at that figure, and advised that I submit them to experts to procure an estimate of their worth. The Newport gentleman wants the cash and is willing to dispose of them at that figure, hence what is his loss will be some fortunate collector's gain.

If my description, plus the independent write-up by the reporter as per clipping, is not sufficiently lucid, I shall gladly send you any one of the 75 that you may name as proof of the genuineness of the bronzes. They will bear the closest inspection.

Very truly yours,
Arthur P. Briggs.

CITY OF LYNN — SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

SHEPARD SCHOOL
ARTHUR PALMER BRIGGS
 PRINCIPAL



Lynn, Mass., 4-3-16

The American Numismatic Society,
 Broadway at 156 St.
 New York City.

Dear Sirs:-

Since answering your inquiry of March 8th 1914 respecting the price asked for the collection of historic French bronzes, I have not been favored by another communication.

If you are interested in purchasing the set, I should be pleased to hear from you.

Very truly yours,

Arthur P. Briggs.
 119 Bellevue Road,
 Lynn, Mass.



CITY OF LYNN — SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

SHEPARD SCHOOL
ARTHUR PALMER BRIGGS
PRINCIPAL

Lynn, Mass., 4-22-'16

The American Numismatic Soc.,
Broadway at 156th St.,
New York City.

Dear Sirs:-

Because I have not heard from you in relation to the historic French bronzes about which I wrote you, I am led to infer that the price set was higher than you wish to pay for such a collection. Will you kindly inform me how much you consider such a collection worth? My investigations since writing

you respecting the price for
which you inquired have
led me to feel confident that
my Newport friend was
cheated in the amount paid.
Granting that he was, the
market value of such a complete
set of medals in perfect condition
must be considerable. Please
write me what your Society will
pay.

Yours truly,

Arthur P. Briggs.

119 Bellevue Road

Lynn, Mass.